AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 29 wherein the bioreductive moiety is non-cytotoxic.

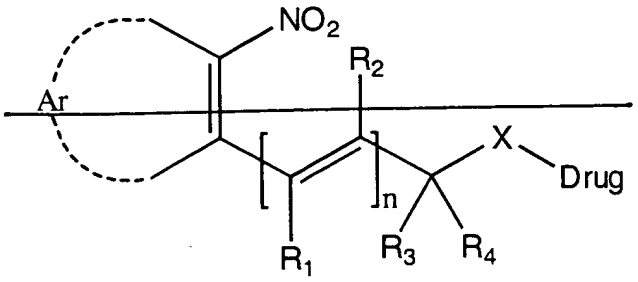
26-28 (Cancelled).

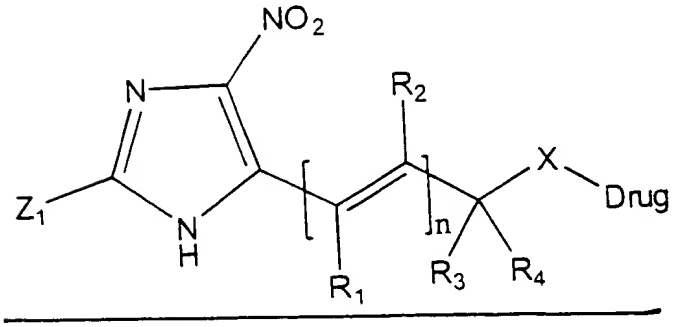
29. (Currently Amended) A bioreductive conjugate comprising a bioreductive moiety with at least one therapeutic agent linked thereto and physiologically acceptable derivatives thereof wherein the bioreductive moiety incorporates an aromatic ring substituted with a nitro group and the conjugate is such that bioreduction of the nitro group causes release of the therapeutic agent by a through bond elimination and the residue of the bioreductive moiety to undergo an intramolecular cyclization reaction in which the nitrogen of the original nitro group provides an atom of the thus formed ring,

wherein the therapeutic agent to be released on bioreduction is bonded to the aromatic ring *via* a side chain incorporating one or more double bonds which are located in the side chain between said therapeutic agent and the aromatic ring, which is/are conjugated to the aromatic ring, and which is/are displaceable to provide for elimination

of said therapeutic agent moiety and formation of an arrangement of double bonds such that the residue of the bioreductive moiety is capable of undergoing the intramolecular cyclisation reaction, and

wherein said conjugate is of the general formula ~~(I)~~ (III)





in which

~~the dashed lines represent completion of a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring system;~~

Drug is a therapeutic agent;

X is a linker (which may be part of the drug) and is -NH, ;

R_1, R_2, and R_3 are hydrogen, and R_4 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl~~; and~~

n is 1 to 3; and

Z_1 is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, halide, amine, alkoxy, ether, ester, alcohol, phenol, nitro, amide, thiol, sulphate, phosphate, or phosphonate.

30 and 31. (Cancel).

32. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 29 wherein n=1.

33-36 (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 29 wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-infective, analgesic, anaesthetic, anti-inflammatory or anti-neoplastic agent.

38. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 29 in conjunction with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

39-45 (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 29 wherein R_4 is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-4}alkyl.

47. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim ~~30~~ 29 wherein Z_1, ~~Z_2, Z_3 and Z_4 are independently~~ is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, halide, amine, alkoxy, ether, ester, alcohol, phenol, nitro, amide, thiol, sulphate, phosphate, or phosphonate.

48. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 37 wherein the anti-infective agent is an antiobiotic or antiviral agent.

49. (Previously Presented) A method of therapeutic treatment, wherein the therapeutic treatment is for osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a subject in need

thereof a therapeutically effective amount of the bioreductive conjugate as claimed in claim 29.

50. (Cancelled).